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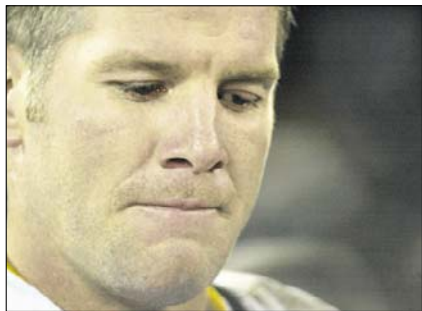
Weekend

DECEMBER 24-28, 2003

Shaken State: Emergency declared after Calif. quake | **3**

Gaza Deaths: 8 Palestinians killed in Israeli raid on camp | **6**

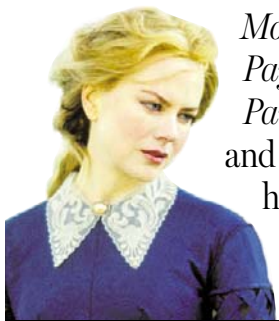
Going Home: Favre mourns father following stellar game | **14**



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Packers QB Brett Favre threw for 399 yards Monday, shortly after his father's death.

Solid 'Cold': Nicole Kidman and Jude Law in an epic *Cold Mountain*. Plus, *Paycheck*, *Peter Pan*, *Big Fish* and other new holiday film releases.



>> **11-13**

Weather > Rain



54 | 32

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 18

SECURITY | SIGNS OF THE SEASON



MARY ALTAFFER/AP

TRAVEL SAFE: Holiday travelers stream past officers standing guard at New York's Port Authority bus terminal Tuesday. Security has been fortified at transportation and energy facilities amid heightened terror warnings. ♦ **Off-site:** Big cities aren't the only likely targets, officials say | Page 3

HOLIDAY CHEER | Light Brigade Holiday revelers in Dallas can cruise the streets in style this year. Limousine companies in the Texas city are offering tours of Christmas light-bedecked neighborhoods, complete with Christmas carols as a mood-setter. The three-hour tours (seriously) are likely to cost a couple hundred dollars. (EXPRESS) **EyeOpeners** | Page 2

Note: Because of the Christmas holiday, Express will not publish on Thursday and Friday.

Malvo Gets Life In Prison

CHESAPEAKE, VA. | The jury in the Washington sniper case Tuesday spared Lee Boyd Malvo from the fate awaiting his mentor John Allen Muhammad — the death penalty — after his lawyers portrayed him as an impressionable boy who had fallen under Muhammad's murderous spell.

Malvo, 18, will get life in prison without parole for his part in the three-week reign of terror that left 10 people dead in and around the nation's capital in October 2002.

Malvo, wearing a blue sweater that made him look like a schoolboy, sat expressionless, his elbows on the defense table. The jury took 8½ hours over two days to decide his fate.

Last month, Muhammad, 42, was found guilty of murder, and the jury recommended the death penalty. The judge in that case could still overrule the jury when he formally sentences Muhammad. Both men could still be tried for other shootings in Virginia and elsewhere and could get the death penalty if convicted. MATTHEW BARAKAT (AP)

♦ **More:** Sentence draws mixed reactions | Page 9

Suspected Mad Cow Case Found in Wash.

WASHINGTON | The first-ever U.S. case of mad cow disease is suspected in a single cow in Washington state, but officials say the American food supply remains safe.

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman confirmed Tuesday that a single cow that was either sick or injured — thus never destined for the food supply — tested presumptively positive for the brain-wasting illness, which sprang up in Britain in 1986 and spread to other countries, prompting massive destruction of herds and decimating the European beef industry. Further testing is under way. (AP)

EyeOpeners



AJAY VERMA/REUTERS

HYGIENE Runny Noses

Everyone gets a little bit of nasal congestion this time of year, but some people in India don't use tissues or Benadryl to fight the sniffles — they use water. It's an ancient yogic technique called Jal Neti, which involves sending salt water through the nasal cavity, as the girls pictured here are doing during a competition in the northern Indian city of Chandigarh on Tuesday. Many Indians believe that Jal Neti cures diseases related to the eyes, nose, throat and brain, Reuters reports. (EXPRESS)

ANIMAL WATCH Pricy Pet Presents

Holiday gift-giving isn't just for people anymore — not when they can choose from the latest bling-bling for their pets, too. The Wall Street Journal reports Ralph Lauren is pitching Fair Isle sweaters and polo shirts for dogs. Owners can buy sterling-silver pettags

from Tiffany. There are also fragrances to freshen their scents, including Aramutts and Timmy Holedigger. And owners can get their pets into the spirit of holidays other than Christmas as well. KosherPets of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., offers Hanukkah collars, stuffed dreidels and even kosher dog biscuits. (AP)

LUCKY DAY It's Raining Money

A man who wanted to share his stock-market winnings with the public tossed \$9,350 worth of U.S. dollar and yen bills from a tower in central Japan on Tuesday, causing a scramble for the money in the streets below. The unidentified man grabbed wads of \$1 and 100-yen bills from two shopping bags and threw them through a window at the TV Tower in Nagoya. Afterward, the man told NHK television that he wanted to give away some of his profits from playing the stock market earlier this month. "I have too much money. I don't need it," he said. "I wanted to give some back to the world." (AP)

TRAVEL Kitty Under the Hood

The car ride from the Kalamazoo area to Rochester Hills was long, and could have cost Tracker a life or two. The long-haired gray cat rode unseen in the engine compartment of a female college student's car as she drove home for the holidays. Officials at Pontiac's Michigan Animal Rescue League, the feline's current home, say he probably survived the 150-mile trip in the Chevrolet Tracker because the woman did not stop. The Daily Oakland Press of Pontiac reported that the cat, which emerged unscathed, likely slipped into the engine compartment of the car to keep warm. (AP)

HOLIDAY CHEER Spider-Santa

Who needs Dasher, Dancer and the gang when you've got a strong set of ropes and pulleys? Steeplejacks in Moscow certainly don't — and they're working overtime these days making house calls. Several of the professional building-climbers get paid by parents during the Christmas period to dress up as Father Frost — Russia's equivalent of Santa Claus — and scale the walls of apartment buildings to surprise the children inside, Reuters reports. (EXPRESS)



SERGEI KAPUKHIN/REUTERS



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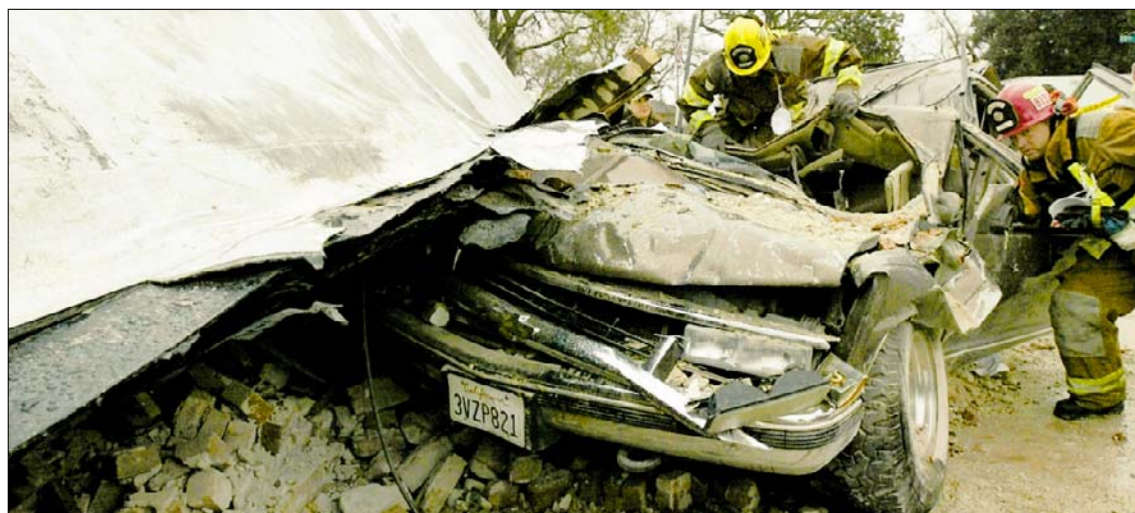
Outlook

Sports

Makes you start sentences with “We really ought to go to...” ▶

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Firefighters Roger Colombo, right, and Josh Cazier search through a car crushed under the roof of Pan Jewelers in Paso Robles, Calif., on Tuesday. Monday's earthquake destroyed several buildings in the city and was blamed for two deaths.

Emergency Declared After Calif. Quake

PASO ROBLES, CALIF. | Aftershocks rattled central California Tuesday as crews tallied damage from a magnitude-6.5 earthquake that killed two people, injured dozens and badly damaged the business district of this wine country town.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger toured downtown Paso Robles, where both fatalities occurred when Monday's quake toppled a 19th-century building with a landmark clock

tower, and declared a state of emergency in San Luis Obispo County.

People from San Francisco to Los Angeles were shaken by Monday's quake, the first to cause fatalities in the state since a magnitude-6.7 temblor hit Northridge in 1994.

In Paso Robles, about 20 miles east of the epicenter, the bodies of two women were pulled from under the roof of the clock tower building, which pitched into the street and

crushed a row of parked cars.

The main shock was centered in a sparsely populated area about 11 miles north of the coastal town of Cambria. It was followed Monday and early Tuesday by more than 80 aftershocks larger than 3.0, the biggest of which was estimated at 4.7, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The total included seven aftershocks of 4.0 to 4.6 on Tuesday morning. BRIAN SKOLOFF (AP)

Terrorists Eyeing Non-City Targets

Power plants, dams among sites listed in new intelligence data

WASHINGTON | Intelligence gathered by the U.S. government indicates al Qaeda terrorists have a keen interest in striking targets that are far from major cities, such as power plants, dams and even oil facilities in Alaska. The Defense Department said Tuesday it is broadening air patrols throughout the country.

In addition, the military is deploying surface-to-air missile systems in the Washington area and is considering locating more anti-aircraft systems in the New York City region, a defense official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Some of the intelligence "chatter" that led President Bush to put the United States on high "orange" alert for a terrorist strike dealt



Coast Guard Petty Officer Lee Heitner prepares to deploy for patrol out of the Port of Los Angeles on Tuesday.

with threats against remote facilities, according to law enforcement and intelligence officials.

One specific threat, they said, was against oil facilities in Valdez, Alaska, where tankers load Prudhoe Bay oil destined for the continental United States. Other threats are more general, mentioning nuclear plants in rural areas and other electric facilities, major dams or bridges, the officials said. CURT ANDERSON (AP)

Securing the homeland: The latest on U.S. efforts to shore up security and what your family can do to stay safe over the holidays | washingtonpost.com

HEARSAY | DEFENDING THE VACCINE



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—GEN. RICHARD MYERS, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
DEFENDING MANDATORY ANTHRAX VACCINATIONS FOR TROOPS. A JUDGE STRUCK DOWN THE PRACTICE IN A RULING RELEASED MONDAY.

Judge: Prosecutors Can Search Limbaugh's Records

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. | Prosecutors investigating whether Rush Limbaugh illegally went "doctor shopping" for prescription painkillers can examine his medical records, a judge ruled Tuesday.

The conservative radio commentator accused prosecutors of going after him for political rea-

sons, and his attorney promptly appealed the ruling.

Circuit Judge Jeffrey A. Winikoff said authorities have a compelling interest in determining whether Limbaugh broke the law, which trumps his right to keep his medical records private. However, the judge said prosecutors cannot

make the radio host's medical records public.

Investigators seized records from Florida and California doctors last month after discovering that Limbaugh received more than 2,000 painkillers, prescribed by four doctors, from a pharmacy near his \$24 million Palm Beach mansion. (AP)

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Nation

To Improve Security, D.C. Gets Blurry

Officials alter photos to hide objects on roofs of government buildings

WASHINGTON | Deferring to Secret Service worries about terrorists, the U.S. government is deliberately blurring high-quality aerial photographs over Washington to hide objects in plain view on the roofs of the White House, the Capitol building and Treasury Department.

The government also obscured aerial views of the Naval Observ-



The White House and Treasury Building roofs are blurred in this 2002 photo.

atory compound where Vice President Dick Cheney lives. It made no effort to blur detailed photographs showing the Pentagon, Supreme

Court, CIA headquarters, Justice Department or FBI headquarters.

Experts said they feared the unusual decision reflects a troublesome move toward new government limits on commercial satellite and aerial photography, a booming industry driven by recent technology advances that includes some major companies based outside the United States.

Secret Service spokesman John Gill said the agency worried the high-altitude photographs "may expose security operations." TED BRIDIS (AP)



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HOMEcoming | HEARTY SALUTE



GOOD SOLDIER: Standing next to his mother, Nikki, left, Jacob Kathman, 3, salutes the Army National Guard troops during their welcome home ceremony Tuesday at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Boone, Iowa. Staff Sgt. Jeff Kathman, Jacob's father, was one of the 150 soldiers returning from Iraq.

Comedian Lenny Bruce Pardoned

ALBANY, N.Y. | Comedian Lenny Bruce was granted a posthumous pardon by Gov. George Pataki Tuesday for a nearly 40-year-old obscenity conviction prompted by a foul-mouthed political commentary.

Pataki called his decision, the first posthumous pardon in New York state history, "a declaration of New York's commitment to upholding the First Amendment."

During a November 1964 performance at Cafe Au Go Go in Greenwich Village, Bruce used more than 100 "obscene" words. Undercover police detectives attended the show, and later testified against Bruce. The charge was Giving an Obscene Performance.

He was convicted following a six-month trial. Beset by legal and financial problems, Bruce died of a drug overdose in 1966 at age 37 with the conviction still on the books. (AP)

In Brief

WASHINGTON

Nader Won't Run on Green Party Ticket in 2004

Ralph Nader, the third-party candidate viewed by many Democrats as the spoiler of the 2000 election for taking votes away from Al Gore, has decided not to run on the Green Party ticket next year, a party spokesman said Tuesday. Nader has not ruled out running for president as an independent and plans to make a decision by January. (AP)

WASHINGTON

U.S. Opens 300,000 Acres Of Alaska Forest to Logging

The Bush administration opened 300,000 more acres of Alaska's Tongass National Forest on Tuesday to possible logging or other development. The move allows 3 percent of the forest's 9.3 million acres to have roads built on them and perhaps to be used by the timber industry. (AP)

BOSTON

Mass. Death Sentence Is State's First in 30 Years

A drifter who admitted carjacking and killing two men during a week-

long crime spree was sentenced to die Tuesday by a federal jury — the first death sentence handed out in Massachusetts in 30 years. Gary Sampson, 44, was condemned for the 2001 murders of Philip McCloskey, 69, and Jonathan Rizzo, 19. (AP)

CHICAGO

Ex-Ill. Governor Pleads Not Guilty to Corruption Charges

Former Gov. George Ryan pleaded innocent Tuesday to federal corruption charges. He was indicted Friday for allegedly taking payoffs while secretary of state and governor in return for state contracts. (AP)

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World

Israeli Raid Leaves 8 Dead

Tanks roll into Gaza in search of tunnels used for smuggling

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP | Israeli forces looking for weapons-smuggling tunnels clashed Tuesday with Palestinian refugees in Gaza, killing eight and wounding more than 40 in the worst spasm of violence there in more than two months.

The bloodshed came despite new efforts to restart stalled peace talks and arrange a summit between the Israeli and Palestinian premiers.

Early Tuesday, about 40 Israeli tanks and armored vehicles entered the Rafah refugee camp on the Gaza-Egypt border, witnesses said. The refugee camp is split in two by the Egyptian border, and Israel alleges that Palestinians often smuggle weapons into Gaza using makeshift tunnels. Egypt has denied that the tunnels originate on its side of the border.

Hospital officials said eight Palestinians — three civilians and five militants — were killed and 42 other people, including nine children, were wounded by Israeli gun-

fire. The Israeli military said none of its troops were injured in the raid.

The death toll in the raid was the highest since 14 Palestinians were killed in an Oct. 20 Israeli bombing at the Nusseirat refugee camp in central Gaza.

Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat denounced the raid, which came as he and a senior Israeli official were trying to coordinate the first summit meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his Palestinian counterpart, Ahmed Qureia.

IBRAHIM BARZAK (AP)



A Palestinian man evacuates a child during an Israeli raid in the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday.

In Brief

CANADA

High Court Rules It's Illegal (Still) to Possess Marijuana

Canada's supreme court upheld the country's current laws against marijuana possession on Tuesday, even as Prime Minister Paul Martin presses to eliminate jail sentences for people caught with small amounts of the drug. In a 6-3 decision, the justices ruled that possession of marijuana will still be a criminal offense. (AP)

ASIA

New 'Trilateral Highway' To Connect India to S.E. Asia

India, Thailand and Myanmar agreed Tuesday to start construction next year on a highway linking the subcontinent to Southeast Asia. The 870-mile Trilateral Highway Project would run from northeastern India through Pa-an in neighboring Myanmar and then to Thailand's border town of Mae Sot. The highway will also provide easier links from India to China, through Myanmar. (AP)

SOUTH KOREA

Court Issues Warrant for U.S. Soldier in Hit-and-Run

A South Korean court issued an arrest warrant Tuesday for an American soldier accused of fleeing a traffic accident that killed a Korean woman. Sgt. Jerry S. Onken, 33, is currently in U.S. military custody. He was expected to be handed over to South Korea for formal indictment. In the past, accidents and crimes involving U.S. soldiers have provoked demonstrations against their presence in South Korea, which currently hosts 37,000 U.S. troops. (AP)

HAITI

Artists, Musicians Gather To Urge Aristide to Resign

Some of Haiti's most famous musicians on Tuesday held a free concert at the University of Haiti calling for President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's resignation while artists painted rainbows over pro-government graffiti. The demonstrators organized the event to show solidarity with students who were attacked by Aristide partisans earlier this month. Haiti has been in turmoil since Aristide's party swept flawed 2000 elections. At least 23 people have been killed in demonstrations since mid-September. (AP)

HONG KONG | SANTAS IN TRAINING



HO, HO ... ZZZZZ: A youngster yawns during the graduation ceremony at a Santa Claus institute in Hong Kong Tuesday. About 100 children learned basic Santa skills and toy-making techniques this year at Hong Kong's first such institute.

Russian Oil Baron to Stay Behind Bars

MOSCOW | A Moscow court ordered Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Russia's richest man and the former chief of the country's largest oil company, jailed for another three months — a ruling that will keep him behind bars until after the March 14 presidential election.

Khodorkovsky can now be held until March 25, said defense lawyer Karinna Moskalenko. The former head of Yukos has been in pretrial

detention since his Oct. 25 arrest on charges of fraud and tax evasion.

The criminal probe against Khodorkovsky is considered by many to be part of a Kremlin-backed effort to curb his political clout, crush his political ambitions and avenge his funding of opposition parties.



Khodorkovsky

A handful of Khodorkovsky supporters protested his arrest, but most Russians have reacted indifferently. There is still much resentment here toward the handful of businessmen who made fortunes amid the Soviet collapse by snatching up state assets at rock-bottom prices while more than one-fifth of the population lives in poverty.

President Vladimir Putin has cast the probe as part of an anti-corruption crusade, and denied any political undertones exist. (AP)

U.S. Arrests Dozens of Iraqi Rebels

Suspects may have ties to ex-V.P. believed to be leading resistance

BAGHDAD, IRAQ | U.S. soldiers arrested dozens of rebel suspects including several associates of a former aide to Saddam Hussein who is believed to have a leading role in Iraq's insurgency.

A U.S. task force in Baqouba, 30 miles northwest of Baghdad, arrested five Iraqis Tuesday, including one suspected of recruiting guerrillas, said Maj. Josselyn Aberle. Two other military sources said the other four were believed to be associates of former Vice President Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, the top remaining figure from the U.S. list of 55 most wanted Iraqis. U.S. commanders say he could be organizing the resistance.

Another task force in the area arrested two Iraqis discovered digging up a cache of mortar rounds and 20 rockets, Aberle said.

Early Wednesday, explosions rocked Baghdad as the U.S. military conducted an anti-rebel operation. Asked about the explosions, a military spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity that operations, including "aerial activity and artillery," were under way.

CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA (AP)

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Local

Life Sentence Stirs Debate

Families of sniper victims criticize jury's decision to spare Malvo

CHESAPEAKE, VA. | The jury's decision Tuesday to spare Lee Boyd Malvo's life drew various reactions from many of the key players of the second Washington-area sniper trial.

Prosecutor Robert F. Horan Jr. remarked that 18-year-old Malvo was "very lucky that he looks a lot younger than he is."

Defense attorney Craig Cooley said Malvo was relieved by the sentence, but "on the other hand he's 18, contemplating living the rest of his natural life in a penitentiary setting." He said the conviction will be appealed to the Virginia Supreme Court.

Malvo was convicted of murder last week in the shooting of FBI analyst Linda Franklin.

Malvo's trial was "an extremely difficult journey for everyone," jury foreman Jim Wolfcale said after the verdict. "This case was both mentally challenging and emotionally exhausting." Wolfcale, read-



Jury foreman Jim Wolfcale offers sympathy to the victim's families on Tuesday.

ing from a statement as six other jurors stood by, added that the jury felt "heartfelt sympathy" for the victims' family and friends. The other jurors declined comment.

Several relatives of the victims expressed disappointment that Malvo did not get the death penalty. Marion Lewis, whose daughter, Lori Ann Lewis-Rivera, was killed at a Kensington, Md., gas station, said

the jurors should be ashamed. "I'm very disappointed in the American justice system," Lewis said.

Malvo's mother, Una James, thanked the jury that spared her son from the death penalty: "I thank God that they spared his life, I thank them for that." Malvo's father, Leslie Malvo, said the jury's recommendation was a lesser of two evils. MATTHEW BARAKAT (AP)

Spared life: For analysis and more reaction to the jury's decision to give teenager Lee Boyd Malvo life without parole | washingtonpost.com/metro

The Lotteries

December 23

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	8-0-0
Evening Lucky Numbers	2-5-7
Mid-day DC 4	7-0-0-9
Evening DC 4	2-9-9-0
Quick Cash	12-14-19-29-32-34
Hot Five	6-8-10-12-16

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	3-4-8
Evening Pick 3	2-6-1
Mid-day Pick 4	0-2-4-2
Evening Pick 4	8-3-4-4
Match 5	1-4-13-18-39 Bonus: 35

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Tues.)	8-8-3
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	7-6-0
Mid-day Pick 4 (Tues.)	5-9-9-4
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	8-0-6-0
Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.)	5-12-13-24-33
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	4-18-19-29-31

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

VRE Enlists Private Security Firm

WASHINGTON | They don't have a crime problem — and they don't want one. So Virginia Railway Express has decided to take action.

The railroad has hired a private security firm to provide armed, uniformed patrols at its Manassas and Fredericksburg yards, as well as at stations.

"Quite frankly, since Sept. 11,

we realize that though we're pestered by minor crimes, terrorist activity could target mass transit at some point," VRE superintendent of operations David Snyder said Tuesday.

Unlike Metro, VRE does not have its own police force, and Snyder believes it is time for the railroad to take a "more professional" approach to securing its yards. MICHAEL W. KAHN (AP)

In Brief

WASHINGTON

Metro Alters Schedule for Passengers on Christmas

On Thursday, Dec. 25, Metrorail will operate from 7 a.m. to midnight, a spokeswoman said. Off-peak fares will be in effect all day and parking in Metro lots will be free. Metrobus will be on a Sunday schedule and MetroAccess will operate on a week-day schedule. (EXPRESS)

CULPEPER, VA.

Teenager Is City's First Homicide Victim Since 1998

An 18-year-old Madison County man was stabbed to death early Tuesday in the first homicide since 1998 in Culpeper, Va. Police said they found Thurston Carpenter Jr. on Highview Court, the victim of multiple stab wounds. According to neighbors, Carpenter's brother lives on that street. Carpenter and another male were involved in an altercation before the stabbing, police said. (AP)

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GLENN WHIPP, LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS



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DIRECTED BY TIM BURTON

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Reports Bolster Economy

In third quarter, GDP grows at 8.2%, best performance since '83

WASHINGTON | Consumers buoyed by brightening employment prospects spent at a healthy clip in November, giving hope that the overall economy will finish the year strongly after growth hit a two-decade high in the summer.

A batch of economic reports released Tuesday showed an economy that was finishing up 2003 in far better shape than the year began: Consumer spending was solid, incomes were rising and people were showing confidence about job prospects.

The Commerce Department reported that the overall economy grew at an annual rate of 8.2 percent in the July-September quarter, still the best performance since the final three months of 1983.

The government reported that personal spending rose by a strong 0.4 percent in November, the best showing since August, while Americans' incomes rose by 0.5 percent last month. MARTIN CRUTSINGER (AP)

ITALY | GONE SOUR



BANKRUPTCY: The Italian government approved an emergency measure Tuesday to bail out Parmalat, the country's biggest dairy company, which reported a \$4.91 billion debt this year.

Nasdaq Denies Reported Plan to Join With NYSE

NEW YORK | Nasdaq, the 32-year-old electronic market suffering from the collapse of the Internet boom, denied a published report Tuesday that it is exploring a possible merger with the New York Stock Exchange.

The Wall Street Journal, citing unidentified sources, reported Tuesday that Nasdaq chief executive Robert Greifeld approached NYSE officials with the idea about three weeks ago.

The concept is at a very preliminary stage and no formal proposal has been made, the Journal said.

In a statement, Nasdaq said the story was "based on rumors

and speculation," and "has no basis in fact."

Calls to interim NYSE chair John Thain were not returned.

A merger between the nation's two biggest markets would likely be welcomed by Wall Street firms, which could potentially save money by combining their trading desks and reducing their membership fees.

Any such merger would be subject to approval by the federal Securities and Exchange Commission. MEG RICHARDS (AP)



Thain

In Brief

AIRLINES

Bid for Dulles Hub Stays Alive After Takeover Pulled

Mesa Air Group said Tuesday that it had ended its bid to take over another regional airline, Atlantic Coast Airlines. The decision to withdraw the offer came the day after United Airlines ended its agreement with Mesa, which would have created a partnership for its own low-cost airline, United Express. Atlantic Coast recently announced it would launch Independence Air, a new low-cost carrier based at Dulles airport, which would be in direct competition with United Express. (AP)

AIRLINES

Delta Scraps Exec Bonuses

Delta Air Lines is canceling executive bonuses for this year and reconsidering its entire compensation program for high-ranking officials as it works to allay lingering employee resentment over lavish pay and perks for top executives. The moves come as the nation's third-largest airline seeks salary cuts from its pilots. Last year, Delta paid about \$17 million in bonuses to 60 executives. (AP)

CONSUMERISM

Phone Cos. Can 'Haggle'

Cell phone companies are free to offer whatever deals they want to consumers, the U.S. Court of Appeals for D.C. ruled Tuesday. The court rejected a complaint from a Cleveland-area woman who said Verizon Wireless discriminated by offering other customers special deals. The court remarked that "haggling" is an acceptable part of a competitive business. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
BBVABFrn	9.40	+1.55	+19.7
Milacron	3.55	+1.40	+12.7
DuaneR	17.00	+1.78	+11.7
WHX	3.38	+0.32	+10.5
Kronos n	19.82	+1.82	+10.1

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Turksh	10.05	-1.60	-13.7
ShopKo	15.15	-1.33	-8.1
Flowserv	20.77	-1.50	-6.7
ParkDri	2.49	-.16	-6.0
NamTai s	26.75	-1.61	-5.7

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
RschMot	69.61	+23.51	+51.0
MarshEd n	12.00	+3.50	+41.2
WheelPit n	26.01	+6.76	+35.1
Novmr g	14.60	+3.03	+26.2
AmBsnF	4.18	+0.78	+22.9

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Interland rs	6.18	-1.15	-15.7
HookerFrn	38.90	-7.00	-15.3
SAFLINK n	3.02	-.50	-14.2
Channell	3.71	-.56	-13.1
SonomaW	7.25	-.98	-11.9

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	4.00	4.00
Fed Funds close	1.00	1.00
3-month	0.88	0.88
2-year	1.85	1.80
10-year	4.26	4.22
30-year	5.05	5.06

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5670	.5671	.6280
Canadian Dollar	1.3203	1.3314	1.5524
European Euro	.8067	.8057	.9744
Japanese Yen	107.40	107.51	120.44
Mexican Peso	11.2750	11.3020	10.1865
Taiwanese Dollar	34.04	34.05	34.81

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
+3.26	+18.98	+3.08
+0.03	+0.97	+0.28
10341.26	1974.78	1096.02

Media Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
ClearChan	47.00	+.35	+26.0
Comcast	31.95	-.28	+35.6
Comc sp	30.45	-.24	+34.8
CoxCom	34.15	+.15	+20.2
Disney	23.46	+.01	+43.8
Fox Ent	29.35	+.35	+13.2
Gannett	88.09	+.69	+22.7
GTelevisa	39.10	-.01	+40.0
HughesEl	16.90	+.93	+57.9
LibtyMA	11.39	+.04	+27.4
LibtyMB	12.28	+.05	+33.5
NewsCorp	34.84	-.04	+32.7
Thomson	34.36	+.61	+28.5
Viacom	43.25	+.31	+6.0
ViacomB	43.22	+.32	+6.0

BY THE NUMBERS: Analysts expect 5 percent economic growth in the current quarter, which would create the best back-to-back quarters of GDP growth since the last half of 1999. (AP)



Civil War Liberties

'Cold Mountain'
is lush, beautiful,
detailed ... and cold

FILM | Everything about this Most Important Film demands respect — from director Anthony Minghella to the story of abiding love and perseverance, which he adapted from Charles Frazier's dense prose, to the formidable ensemble cast, led by Nicole Kidman, Jude Law and Renee Zellweger.

It's an undeniably gorgeous spectacle, with lush cinematography from John Seale and costume and production design that are obsessive in their detail. The Civil War battle scenes are so violent, they're almost unbearable to watch.

But Kidman and Law, both actors with tremendous allure and presence, have difficulty convincing us that they're in love.

As the prim, wealthy Ada, Kidman struggles alone to maintain her family's North Carolina farm alone. Law, as the taciturn Confederate soldier Inman, struggles to return home to Ada.

But even in a faded frock and with ratted tresses, Kidman manages to look ravishing. When Ada pouts about having to kill roosters and mend fences, it's hard not to think of another statuesque blonde, Paris Hilton, wobbling across Arkansas in \$2,000 heels.



IN LOVE AND WAR: Ada (Kidman) and Inman (Law) share one picturesque moment among many in "Cold Mountain."

Zellweger is more compelling as Ruby, the tough-as-nails mountain woman who helps Ada.

Minghella alternates between Ada and Ruby's story and Inman's journey. The stunt casting can seem gratuitous but it also provides one of the film's better scenes, between Inman and Natalie Portman as a widowed mother. Moments like that one are likely to stick in the minds of Oscar voters, for whom this grand, handsome film was intended.

CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

ALSO OPENING THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, DEC. 25

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN (PG, 98 minutes) Steve Martin stars as the football-coach patriarch of a big, zany brood in a remake of the 1950s family gem.



Martin

FRIDAY, DEC. 26

FOG OF WAR (PG-13, 106 minutes) Documentarian Errol Morris plumbs the depths of ambivalence and responsibility in a complex portrait of former Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

YOUNG BLACK STALLION

(IMAX) (G, 50 minutes) In this visually ravishing IMAX fiction film for kids, a young girl befriends a wild horse.

Lousy Memory

FILM | Everyone earns his wages on "Paycheck," a solid, entertaining thriller with a bounty of silly but fun gunplay, hand-to-hand brawls and car chases.

Starring Ben Affleck and Uma Thurman and directed by action master John Woo, "Paycheck" is the latest flick adapted from the mind-bending science fiction of Philip K. Dick.

Affleck plays Michael Jennings, a genius-for-hire in a near future where reverse engineering — dis-

assembling gadgets and piecing them into a superior product — is a common means for corporations to swipe competitors' technology.

Since it's super-secret work, Michael agrees to have his memories of the time he spent on a project erased upon completion, in exchange for handsome paychecks. He remembers only the good times spent living it up between jobs.

Things turn sour after billionaire Jimmy Rethrick (Aaron Eckhart) hires Michael for a three-year devel-



"I bought a \$1.2 million diamond ring?"

opment project, promising a multimillion-dollar payday.

Once Michael has his memory erased, he finds he's forfeited all payment and is pursued by federal agents. And he can't recall Rachel (Thurman), a biologist who had been his lover.

All Michael has is an envelope full of junk — a cigarette lighter, a can of hairspray, keys that fit unknown locks — that he inexplicably sent to himself. These turn out to be tools for his survival in Rethrick's plot to predict and control the future. "Paycheck" relies on chases, fights and shoot-'em-ups, at which Michael is curiously proficient. DAVID GERMAIN (AP)

Top Stops

FOR COMPLETE EVENT LISTINGS SEE
WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

The events listed below take place
Wed., Dec. 24, through Sun., Dec. 28.

**Believe It:
'Miracle on 34th St.'**

Even hard-hearted old Scrooges will believe in Santa after a big-screen viewing of the reliably tear-jerking "Miracle on 34th Street."

AFI Silver Theatre, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; Wed., Dec. 24, 6:45 p.m.; 301-495-6700.

**Good-Time Blues:
Bogart at Birchmere**

How she can toggle between the piano and the saxophone is a mystery to us, but we love Deanna Bogart's rollicking blues.

Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria; Fri., Dec. 26, 7:30 p.m., \$19.50; 703-549-7500.

**The Local Garage:
Carlsonics Make Noise**

The Carlsonics have rocked every worthy garage in D.C. and now they're coming for your Craftsman kit.

Black Cat, 1811 14th St., NW; Sat., Dec. 27, 9:30 p.m., \$7; 800-551-7328. (U St.-Cardozo)



The Carlsonics take a break from being one of D.C.'s premier unsung bands.

**Christmas Music:
Jazz Jam**

So you've opened the gifts, stuffed yourselves, called Mom, broken the gifts and now you're at loose ends. Get busy with the All-Star Christmas Day Jazz Jam, featuring five musicians who called their moms early.

Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage, 2700 F St., NW; Thu., Dec. 25, 6 p.m., free; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom)

Continued on page 12

Entertainment

TopStops

Continued from page 11

They Saw the Light: Hank Williams Tribute

4 Hear a variety of accomplished local musicians — Robin & Linda Williams, Bill Kirchen, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, Dave Geigerich, Rickie Simpkins & Mark Schatz — take on the great country songbooks in this weekend's all-star Hank Williams Tribute.

Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria; Sat., Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m. \$20; 800-551-7328.

Celtic Rites: A Scottish Christmas

5 In case you wondered what the Scots wear under their kilts come Christmastime, you might get a partial explanation via the eloquent fiddle of Miss Bonnie Rideout when she puts on "A Scottish Christmas," complete with dancers and Celtic musicians. (We have it on good authority that it's the same thing they wear under their kilts the rest of the year.)

Kennedy Center Concert Hall, 2700 F St., NW; Fri., Dec. 26, 8 p.m., \$32-\$47; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom)



JESUS MEDRANO

Grammy nominee and local treasure Bonnie Rideout fiddles Scottish style.

Fancy Feast: New Year Tasting

6 It's never too early to start guzzling the bubbly and snacking on swank food-stuffs — why, we're doing that right now. When hosting a "Taste of the New Year," Whole Foods in Vienna opens its doors to freeloaders like us who wonder why every day isn't New Year's Eve.

Whole Foods, 143 Maple Ave., Vienna; Sun., Dec. 28, noon to 2 p.m., free; 703-319-2000.

Hook, Line & Sinker

A series of whoppers connects fathers with sons in 'Big Fish'

FILM | A fable about fathers and sons, lies and misconceptions, "Big Fish" is the straightest movie in Tim Burton's kinky repertoire.

Based on Daniel Wallace's novel, "Big Fish" tells of a raconteur who, after a lifetime of spinning whoppers about lachrymose giants and two-headed women, faces the prospect of dying under the dark cloud of his son's resentment. There are worse paternal sins than fish tales, but you wouldn't know it from Will Bloom.

Will (Billy Crudup) is a prematurely old fogey who has spent his life stockpiling grudges against his father. Played in the past by an exuberant Ewan McGregor and on the deathbed by Albert Finney, Edward is one in a line of fictional fathers who has tended his own garden at the expense of his family.

Will's part of the film tells of a soul-troubled young man, now living overseas, trying to make peace with his past. When Will receives word of his father's illness, he grimly packs up his wife and disapproval,



IT COULD HAPPEN: Ewan McGregor as young Edward Bloom, a spinner of tall tales and neglecter of his resentful son.

and carries both back to his small town in Alabama.

There's delight in watching Burton conjure up one fantastical scenario after another, whether it's the story of a poet turned bank robber, a circus interlude or a surreal peek at a variety show for comrades in North Korea. It's in these stories that Burton, working with cin-

ematographer Philippe Rousselot and production designer Dennis Gassner, allows himself to be freed from the dull restraint of everyday life and everyday movies.

But because half of "Big Fish" involves an adult son and his terminally ill father and takes place in the familiar realm of accusation, confession, turnaround and

acceptance, Burton yanks us out of Edward's florid imagination and thrusts us back into the desert of Will's reproach.

One of the few visionaries working in Hollywood, Burton has always believed adults can experience the world with the infinite vision of children. **MANOHLA DARGIS** (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Heavy on the Whimsy

FILM | In a movie world overrun by dazzling visual effects, director P.J. Hogan's "Peter Pan" stands out as a vibrant, refreshing fantasy.

Peter (played by 14-year-old Jeremy Sumpter) and his band of Lost Boys are so preciously mischievous that their antics become an emotional drain on the story.

Hogan's take adheres to J.M. Barrie's text, with darker themes of Edwardian repression, seduction and awakening sexuality among adolescents.

Those elements center on Wendy Darling (13-year-old Rachel Hurd-Wood), a London girl whose spunk is at odds with the proper household her father (Jason Isaacs) seeks



MAKING NEVERLAND INNOCENT AGAIN: Peter (Sumpter) faces up to Tinkerbell.

to maintain.

Peter whisks the Darling kids off to his home in Neverland, where Wendy becomes "Mother" to the rambunctious Lost Boys and rival for Peter's attentions to winged fairy

Tinkerbell (Ludivine Sagnier).

Hogan coaxes more smarm than necessary out of Sumpter, and, Sagnier's Tinkerbell is a bratty gnat. Still, Hurd-Wood is a minor revelation. **DAVID GERMAIN** (AP)

Sunday in The Washington Post

Everybody's Neighbor

Remembering Mister Rogers, with friends, associates and his widow Joanne Rogers. | *TV Week*

Arts Wrap-Up

The year in arts with our TV, music, architecture, theater, art, design, film and dance critics. | *Arts*

No Puffy Sleeves, Ever!

Our fashion mavens make sense of the latest trends and dump your dated duds. | *Sunday Source*

The Year That Was ... Lousy

Dave Barry recaps, laments and pokes fun at the carnival ride we like to call 2003. | *Post Magazine*

Entertainment

ON TV TONIGHT

A CRITIC'S CHRISTMAS EVE

'Twas the night before Christmas/and all over the dial/only reruns are airing/ Oh, that fills me with bile!

GEORGE LOPEZ (9 p.m., ABC) makes ancient jokes about being Hispanic. Could that be why his ratings are less than titanic?

And surely UPN can't be raking in dough, with shows as unwatched as **JAKE 2.0** (9 p.m., UPN).

But there are good things to watch

if you're in the mood for some looking, and not overly distracted by the feast you'll be cooking.

Meg Ryan, John Cusack and Kelsey Grammer (from "Frasier") lend their voices to the cartoon **ANASTASIA** (8 p.m., Fox).

And if it's with spies in bikinis and gadgets you're taken, there's the James Bond marathon (beginning 9 a.m., Spike). Tonight, he's stirred and not shaken!

In the mood to shed tears with the kiddies and wife? There's the four-millionth airing of **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE**



RUSSIAN INTO IT: Anastasia and Dmitri fight cute in Fox's animated film.

(8 p.m., NBC).

Between defrosting the turkey and leaving the pies out, there's **A CHRISTMAS STORY** (beginning 6 p.m., TNT) marathon. "Hey, kid, you'll shoot your eye out!"

But maybe, just maybe, and I don't mean to beside, Christmas is not something you find in TV Guide.

Put down that remote (yes, I know this is shocking!) and take a little time to hang up your stocking.

Listen for hooves on the roof and watch for wonder in a child's eyes. That's got to be better than a repeat **STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE** (8 p.m., UPN).

So before I get misty, let me offer my greetings and vision:

Merry Christmas to all! And turn off your darn television!

FIT FOR THE SEASON

HOLIDAY INN (10 p.m., TCM) Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire team up in the 1942 musical featuring "White Christmas."

BIOGRAPHY (8 p.m., A&E) profiles Santa Claus.

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS (8 p.m., TCM) Judy Garland sings "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" in this 1944 Vincente Minnelli musical. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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★ NO PASSPORTS ACCEPTED

SHOWTIMES FOR - TIMES FOR 12/24/03

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WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN WHY

“... He's not the Hulk I remember, he's King Kong on nuclear bananas ...

... I could go on and on ... but who has that much time on earth? ...

... Those pounding hooves might as well be going: *metaphor metaphor metaphor metaphor* ...”

Desson Thomson | Movie Critic

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Sports

Redskins' Edwards Is On the Hot Seat

Defensive coordinator may be let go after disappointing season

PRO FOOTBALL | The Washington Redskins defensive players were granted their wish after they publicly lobbied for George Edwards to be their coordinator.

Maybe that was the problem.

For whatever reason, the defense hasn't stood up for Edwards, dropping from last year's fifth place in the league rankings to 23rd entering Saturday's finale against Philadelphia.

"We sort of let him down a little bit," cornerback Champ Bailey said.

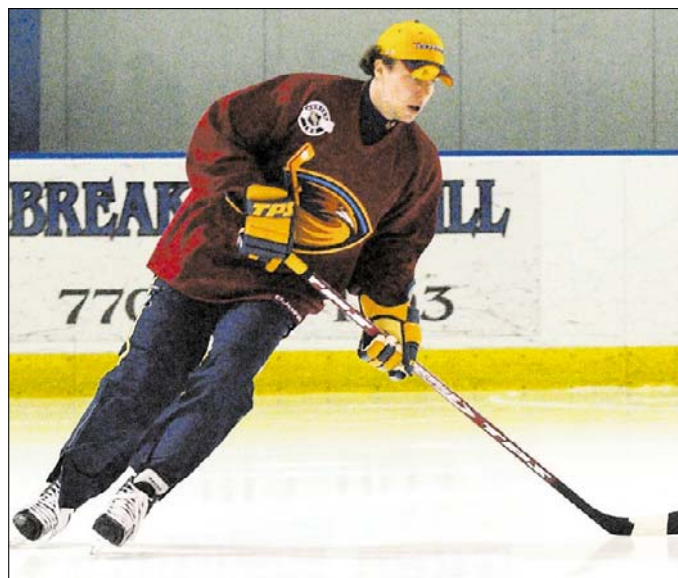
The embarrassing low came in Sunday's 27-24 loss at Chicago, when the bottom-ranked Bears offense piled up 429 yards. Such performances have Edwards's name at the top of the list of possible changes to coach Steve Spurrier's staff.

But the players feel Edwards is getting a raw deal. They note that the team had to hastily assemble a defensive line during training camp after Dan Wilkinson was released and Brandon Noble blew out his knee.

If Spurrier decides not to retain Edwards, the replacement would be the sixth defensive coordinator in six seasons of Snyder's ownership.

JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

HOCKEY | BREAKING THE ICE



COMEBACK TRAIL: All-star Dany Heatley skated for the first time since the car wreck that killed teammate Dan Snyder and left Heatley with a broken jaw and torn knee ligaments. He worked out for 10 minutes and left the rink without commenting. He is expected to speak at a news conference Friday.

In Brief

PRO BASEBALL

Lofton Signs With Yankees

Kenny Lofton is ready to replace incumbent Bernie Williams as the New York Yankees' center fielder. "They said they want me to play center field," Lofton said Tuesday after the Yankees finalized his \$6.2 million, two-year contract. Yankees manager Joe Torre expects the 36-year-old Lofton and 35-year-old Williams to compete for the job during spring training. (AP)

PRO BASEBALL

Lopez Passes Physical, Officially Joins Orioles

Catcher Javy Lopez will be wearing No. 18 for the Baltimore Orioles, after passing a team physical Tuesday. The former Atlanta player who wore No. 8 as a Brave knew he couldn't continue that tradition in Baltimore because



Lopez

of Cal Ripken Jr. "I knew, I knew right away it wasn't available," Lopez said, laughing. Lopez, who said he can play first base, will also get to be a designated hitter by playing for the Orioles. (AP)

PRO BASKETBALL

Thomas Begins Evaluation Process of Struggling Knicks

New team president Isiah Thomas sat down Tuesday with head coach Don Chaney to discuss the state of the New York Knicks, with Thomas providing no job security assurances to Chaney. "We talked about the team, we didn't talk about my status," Chaney said. "It's not about assurances for me, I don't need that." (AP)

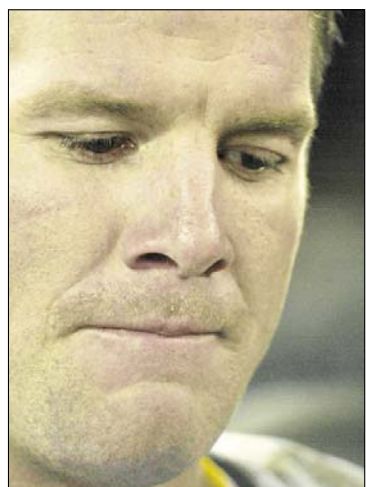
Favre Heads Home for Father's Funeral

Star quarterback led Green Bay to victory one day after tragedy

PRO FOOTBALL | Brett Favre went home to Mississippi on Tuesday, hours after playing one of the best games of his career despite the unexpected death of his father the day before.

Green Bay Packers coach Mike Sherman juggled his schedule so that he, too, could attend Irvin Favre's funeral Wednesday in Pass Christian, Miss.

Assistant head coach Bob Slowik will run practice in Sherman's



Brett Favre led Green Bay to a win Monday after his father died Sunday.

absence as the Packers (9-6) prepare to host Denver (10-5) in a game that could determine if Green Bay makes the playoffs.

Although Favre played brilliantly less than 24 hours after learning his father died of a massive heart attack while driving near his family's home in Kiln, Miss., there has to be concern in the organization that Favre will be emotionally and physically exhausted by Sunday.

"I think Brett plays a lot on adrenaline, though, and I think Sunday when Denver is here, he'll be back to his old competitive self," team president Bob Harlan said Tuesday. ARNIE STAPLETON (AP)

Rodriguez Will Remain a Ranger

PRO BASEBALL | Texas says Alex Rodriguez will be back with the Rangers next season.

The 5 p.m. EST Tuesday deadline for a deal with Boston passed without a trade of the American League MVP, and Rangers owner Tom Hicks said talks with the Red Sox are finally over.

"It is time for the Texas Rangers to look forward to the 2004 season with Alex Rodriguez as our short-stop and team leader," Hicks said. "As we explored recent opportunities, we always said he would not be traded unless it made our team better, faster." (AP)

Chargers Coach Gets Another Schott

PRO FOOTBALL | Marty Schottenheimer will return as coach of the San Diego Chargers next year even though they've lost 19 of their last 24 games.

Tired of speculation about Schottenheimer's future, general manager A.J. Smith said Tuesday that Schottenheimer will return for his third year with the Chargers. San Diego is 3-12 and tied with Arizona for the NFL's worst record.

"The constant questions were becoming a distraction for us, so I

felt it was time to end the speculation once and for all," Smith said in a statement. "After the season we will assess the entire organization from top to bottom and address the issues that led to this very disappointing season. I believe in the benefits of stability and continuity. We haven't given him enough time or enough talent on the field." (AP)



Schottenheimer



BY THE NUMBERS: Georgia Tech's men's basketball team matched its best start in school history Tuesday by defeating Marist, 90-40. The victory was the undefeated Yellow Jackets' 11th straight win this season. (AP)

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

PRO BASKETBALL (8 p.m. Thursday on ABC) Yao Ming and the Houston Rockets challenge Shaquille O'Neal and the L.A. Lakers.

PRO FOOTBALL (8 p.m. Saturday on ESPN and WJLA) Mercifully, the Redskins' season ends when they play the Philadelphia Eagles, who clinch the NFC East with a win.

PRO HOCKEY (7 p.m. Saturday on Comcast) The Washington Capitals face the Buffalo Sabres.

PRO FOOTBALL (8:30 p.m. Sunday on ESPN) Jamal Lewis can set the record for most rushing yards in one NFL season and the Baltimore Ravens can clinch the AFC North with a win over the Pittsburgh Steelers.

KOBE BRYANT CASE

Bryant Prosecution Aided By JonBenet Investigator

Prosecutors in the sexual assault case against Kobe Bryant are being helped by a respected investigator who recently was hired to help solve the JonBenet Ramsey slaying. Tom Bennett has interviewed the alleged victim in the Bryant case at least once, according to a recent court filing. "His involvement was for a very limited purpose, not as an ongoing part of the case," prosecution spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said Tuesday. (AP)

Biggie SUVs To Conserve Fuel, Perhaps

SUVs | The Bush administration is considering making heavier SUVs, such as the Hummer H2, Ford Excursion and Chevrolet Suburban, as well as large pickup trucks, comply with federal fuel economy standards for the first time. Vehicles that weigh more than 8,500 pounds are now exempt.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration said Monday it is also seeking comments on whether to change the definitions that distinguish passenger cars from light trucks. Most sport utility vehicles now fall under the classification of light trucks, although they are used primarily as passenger vehicles, and can therefore abide by looser fuel economy standards.

In April, NHTSA announced a slight increase in the fuel economy standards for light trucks. The new standards said trucks for the 2007 model year must average 22.2 miles per gallon, up from the current 20.7 mpg. The requirement for new cars is 27.5 mpg. JONATHAN D. SALANT (AP)



The Hummer H2 isn't scared of any NHTSA rule. It can drive over rocks!



SOULESS CRUISER: Acura's sedan is a powerful entry-level luxury vehicle. It won't win any awards for personality, though.

Rolls but Doesn't Rock

Acura's 2004 TL is the kind of car you marry — not date

ROAD TEST | You might think that the 2004 Acura TL would be cause for celebration, what with its just-about-perfect-in-every-way engineering, embarrassment of standard features, handsome exterior and starship interior. But who would have thought perfection would be so uninspiring?

This \$35,000 front-wheel-drive sedan — pitted against entry-luxury choices like the Lexus ES 330, Audi A4 and Saab 9-3 — carries on Acura's tradition of engine-intensive performance, unimpeachable build quality and irresistible value. Everything works, everything fits, what's not to like?

Then again, what's to love? The cars we love say something about us that we ourselves are desperate to say. What does the TL say? I subscribe to Consumer Reports?

The TL is powered by a 3.2-liter dual-overhead-cam V-6 engine with electronic throttle control and variable-valve technology to orchestrate its 24 valves. Yet another example of Honda's quartz-movement precision, this all-alloy engine — a higher-compression version of the mill of the previous 3.2 TL Type S — produces 270 horsepower and 238 pound-feet of torque with excellent emissions values.

This is the sort of engine you imagine provocatively posed in the centerfold of the journal for the Society of Automotive Engineers: lightweight, compact, powerful, efficient, smooth.

2004 ACURA TL

POWERTRAIN: 3.2-liter dual-overhead-cam V-6 engine with variable-valve timing, 5-speed automatic, front-wheel drive
WEIGHT: 3,575 pounds
WHEELBASE: 107.9 inches
LENGTH: 186.2 inches
ZERO TO 60 MPH: In 6 seconds
MILEAGE: 19 mpg city, 29 highway
BASE PRICE: \$32,650

Tramp the gas pedal, and the faint thrumming in the seat and steering wheel is like the mellow purr of a Sharper Image nose hair trimmer. TL drivers will have to live without the pleasure of a high-output motor spilling its guts for their enjoyment. DAN NEIL (L.A. TIMES)



LIVE ONLINE

Car Care

Automotive expert **PAT GOSS** owns Pat Goss Car World Inc., a local car repair company. He chats once a month on washingtonpost.com/liveonline.

What do you do to prepare your car for bad winter weather?

I check my anti-freeze (coolant) to make sure it has the proper freeze protection, the proper pH and that it's clean. I get a fresh oil change. If it has been two years or 24,000 miles since the last transmission flush, I have it flushed. If the car has 60,000 or more miles or is four or more years old, I change all belts and hoses under the hood. I check the battery and charging system, flush the brakes, properly inflate the tires, check all lights and give the car a thorough safety check (often free this time of year).

Settle this debate once and for all: How long should a vehicle be warmed up before heading out? Is prolonged idling at startup harmful to the car?

The ideal warm up is about one minute. This gives the oil time to circulate and lubricate the moving parts in the engine. Long warm ups warm only the engine and do a very poor job of that. Drive the car gently until it reaches normal operating temperature. This will prevent harm to the engine while warming everything simultaneously — not just the engine.

Protect that dainty Hummer H2: For more on winterizing your delicate vehicle, visit washingtonpost.com/cars.

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Travel

Left Holding the Bag

Rules for carry-on luggage are getting less and less clear

AIR TRAVEL | The firm “one-plus-one” limit — one carry-on bag plus one personal item — that the Federal Aviation Administration established after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks is not so firm anymore.

It's not even clear who is enforcing it. Some airlines say it's the FAA. The FAA says it's the Transportation Security Administration, and the TSA says it's the airlines.

TSA quietly posted a revision to carry-on rules on www.tsa.gov a week before the Thanksgiving travel crush. It said: “You may carry one (1) bag of photographic equipment in addition to one (1) carry-on and one (1) personal item through the screening checkpoint. The additional bag must conform to your air carrier's carry-on restrictions for size and weight.”

A few days later, the rule acquired this: “Air carriers may or may not allow the additional carry-on item on their aircraft.” A few calls revealed that American, America West, Delta and Southwest wouldn't let the extra photo bag on; United said it would.



WEIGHING THE OPTIONS: Varying weight limits for carry-on bags are sending travelers to the scales, here at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport in November.

Several airlines cited FAA rules. But the FAA said it hadn't regulated the number of carry-ons since the TSA took charge of security at U.S. airports in November 2002.

Not exactly. “Our policy affects rules governing the checkpoint,” said Mark Hatfield, a TSA spokesman. “When you get to the gate, it's still up to the airline.”

Meanwhile, weight and size restrictions for carry-ons still vary widely by airline. Delta, for instance, says only that carry-on bags can't be larger than 22 by 14 by 9 inches; Continental says length, width and height must total 51 inches or less and that the bag can't weigh more than 40 pounds.

What's a confused traveler to do? You could try grilling your airline about the rules for each aircraft on your trip. That's not foolproof, because reservations agents may give different answers.

Or you could try the “bag-within-a-bag” system suggested by Doug Wills, spokesman for the Air Transport Association. He advocates clear plastic bags for packing photo equipment, toiletries and so on, and putting these inside your carry-on. If your bag flunks, you can quickly pluck out necessities to take on board. *JANE ENGLE (L.A. TIMES)*

LIVE ONLINE

Travel Talk

The Washington Post travel staff, aka **THE FLIGHT CREW**, takes queries and comments at washingtonpost.com/liveonline every Monday at 2 p.m.

I'm heading to New York after Christmas on a tight budget. Are “suggested donations” for museums really just suggestions?

Yes, suggested donations are just that; you may get dirty looks if you do what I did as a kid (five of us on a quarter) but certainly the \$12 recommended by certain places isn't being paid by everyone who walks in the door.

I'm shocked, I tell you shocked, at the prices for Cape May lodging the week after Christmas. Do ya'll have some affordable favorites?

Yeah, Cape May really messes with you after the holidays. Maybe you could find a place in Lewes, Del., which is a pretty little town on the bay and take the ferry across one day to visit Cape May (www.capemaylewesferry.com).



The Lewes Terminal of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, in Delaware.

In Brief

MOTION SICKNESS Disney Provides Barf Bags For Mission: Space Riders

Walt Disney World has begun placing motion sickness bags on its newly opened Mission: Space ride, which re-creates the intense experience of a rocket launch, simulating rising G-forces and loss of gravity. The

motion sickness bags are a first for the theme park resort. Disney estimated that less than 1 percent of all riders get sick on the \$100 million ride, which uses a multi-arm centrifuge to simulate twice the normal force of gravity. Mission: Space has become one of Disney World's most popular rides since it opened this fall. Signs warn riders that they shouldn't go on the ride if they're prone to motion sickness. (AP)



Disney's Mission: Space teaches kids about the magical feeling of nausea.

GUIDES Historic Hotels: Some Famous Guy Slept Here

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has issued its 2004 directory of “Historic Hotels of America,” which lists accommodations connected to American heritage. The hotels include the

Royal Palms, a 20th-century industrialist's mansion converted into a Southwestern-style luxury resort; the Best Western in Gettysburg, Pa., with a legacy dating back to the Civil War; and the

Old Tavern, a cozy lodge in Grafton, Vt., that was founded in 1801 as a stagecoach stop on the Boston-to-Montreal run. For a copy of the directory, call (202) 588-6295 or visit www.historichotels.org. (AP)

Training day: Visit Northlandz, a wonderful world of model trains (there's a doll museum, too!) in Flemington, N.J. In today's Washington Post, Style section.

FOOD Airports Offer Healthy Alternatives to Cinnabon

It's getting easier to find healthy food in airports, according to a study by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. The independent health advocacy group surveyed the nation's 15 biggest airports to see what type of food was available for purchase by travelers. Three-fourths of the airports had healthy food at 50 percent or more of their restaurants, an improvement over last year's study. Denver topped the list with 83 percent of its airport restaurants offering healthy choices; San Francisco came in second with 82 percent. Restaurants were considered healthy by the committee if they offered at least one low-fat, high-fiber and cholesterol-free entree. (AP)

I managed to snag emergency exit row seats on a flight for myself and my cousin. The problem is, he fractured his elbow and is in a sling for another week or so. However, he's 6'9" and the extra leg room means the world to him. Is it awful if we pretend that he's able-bodied enough to sit in the exit row?

First of all, if he's in a sling an attentive attendant probably won't let him sit there. And if he can conceal the injury? Ethically, if there's any chance his arm would prevent him from doing what he is agreeing to do by sitting in that seat, he should suck it up and sit elsewhere.

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SE— 1 BR & 1BR w/den \$600 & up + elec. No pets. 202-265-4814; 202-889-4083. **Fred A. Smith Co.**

SIL SPG/Leisure World—Lux. Condo. Must be 55 yo+. 1BR, 1 BA. Jan. 1. \$1200/mo. + elec. 301-203-0871

VIENNA—Newly built, 2BR, 2.5BA, FR, fpl, 2 balcs, indr pkgng, walk Dunn Loring Metro. pool & gym. \$1600. 703-671-4947

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WHEELS

AUDI—'99 A6 Avant Quattro SW, 38K, loaded, snrf, white w/ blue lthr, 10wner, \$16,900, 202-342-2155

People

ILLUSIONISTS

Roy Goes Home to Siegfried

Illusionist **ROY HORN** of "Siegfried & Roy" returned to his Las Vegas home to continue his rehabilitation under the care of a team of doctors and therapists. Horn suffered a stroke after the attack and lost a lot of blood but has shown signs of improvement, family spokesmen have said. He was mauled by a 300-pound tiger on Oct. 3, during a performance at The Mirage hotel-casino. (AP)



GUESTS

Bored Silly

Actor **STEVE MARTIN**, left, feigns sleep after asking CBS Late Show host **DAVID LETTERMAN** to tell him about his new baby during a taping in New York on Monday. Letterman was scheduled to visit troops in Baghdad on Wednesday. His son, Harry Joseph, was born Nov. 3. (AP)



Jerry Seinfeld hopes to change the minds of his recalcitrant former co-stars.

FOOTBALL

Groveling Ensues

Joe Namath apologized to ESPN reporter **SUZY KOLBER** for twice saying he wanted to kiss her during Saturday's Patriots-Jets game. "Joe apologized, I accepted, it's over," Kolber said Tuesday after the former Jets quarterback phoned her. (AP)



OZZY WATCH

He Leaves Intensive Care!

The ailing **OZZY OSBOURNE** has been moved out of intensive care as he recovers from the crash of an all-ter-

rain vehicle two weeks ago, his family said Tuesday. He spent a week on a ventilator. In a written statement, the Osbourne family said their patriarch had been moved from Wexham

Park Hospital in London to a private clinic. Osbourne's wife, Sharon, said last week it would probably take six months for him to recover fully from his injuries. (AP)

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

All forecasts provided by AccuWeather.com ©2003

Today
Hi 54
Lo 32



Thurs.
Hi 44
Lo 28



Fri.
Hi 49
Lo 34



Sat.
Hi 54
Lo 38



Sun.
Hi 54
Lo 38



Today, cloudy, windy, mild, rain ending in the afternoon. High 54. Wind becoming west to northwest 12-22 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy, breezy, becoming colder. Low 32.

UV Index (for solar noon)
1 out of 10, minimal

Air Quality Index (AQI)
AQI Today: Not available

Pollen Index (Yesterday)
Reading: Main offender: Not available

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Thursdays.**

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A publication of The Washington Post

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

PARDON THE CLICHE, but what's the world coming to? The Dec. 10 issue had "Make Way for Auto Traffic" (in Shanghai — to the demise of bicycle-traffic); then on Dec. 19, "Schwarzenegger Declares Calif. Fiscal Emergency" (following his repeal of the car tax).

Increasingly, the world kowtows to the private automobile, especially in Shanghai, the bastion of bicycle-pedaling civility.

But now GM and Ford have made inroads into China's auto production, and California has nearly as many autos as it does people! Is the world losing its senses?

—EDWARD ABRAMIC
Washington, D.C.

I FOUND THE OVERSIZED PHOTO of Lee Boyd Malvo on the Dec. 19 front page both invasive and intrusive.

While I understand the need for coverage of both trials, how much longer does the public have to continue to be bombarded with photos of Malvo and John Allen Muhammad?

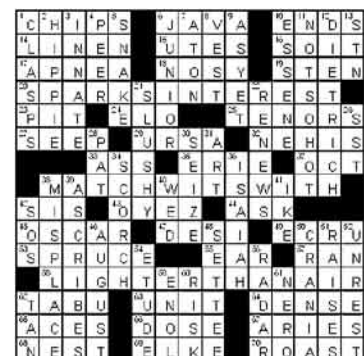
We know what they look like; they have been convicted and sentenced; and it's time to move on with our lives.

—HAROLD CUREAU
Silver Spring, Md.

WRITE TO EXPRESS

Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Submissions may be edited for space. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

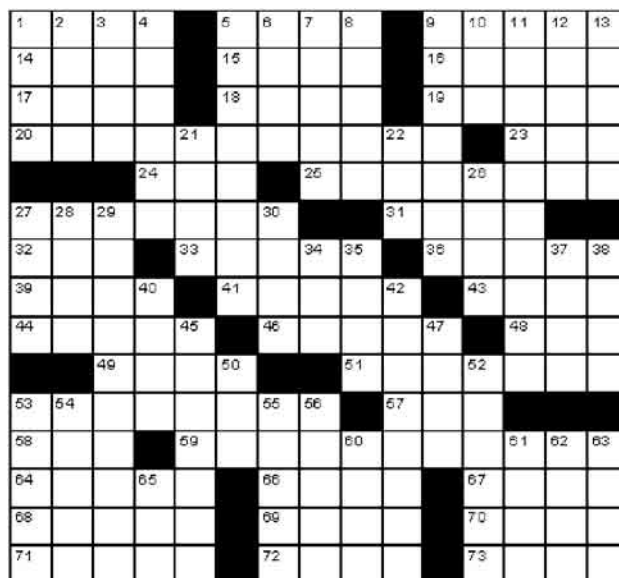
Yesterday's Solution



Crossword Puzzle: Closure | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Builder's map
- 5 Lambentree
- 9 "The Merry Widow" composer
- 14 "No problemo!"
- 15 Reverberation
- 16 Semiprecious stone
- 17 Corvette, for one
- 18 Suggestive sneer
- 19 American majority
- 20 Circus attraction
- 23 Famous West
- 24 Kind of chest or dog
- 25 Ditto
- 27 Sheer delight
- 31 North Sea tributary
- 32 Paris pronoun
- 33 Arctic explorer
- 36 Operatic legend
- 39 ____ Blanc
- 41 Kind of trap
- 53 Hornswoggle
- 44 Like some pond growth
- 46 Get going
- 48 Dernier ____ (latest fashion)
- 49 Debtor's burden
- 51 Sinatra's hometown
- 53 Inches, as to feet
- 57 GRF's choice for VP
- 58 Exclamations of surprise
- 59 Bombshell



- 64 Religious leader
- 66 Abbey or Tobacco
- 67 Wading bird
- 68 Word with tactics or crow
- 69 Dorothy's pet
- 70 One-third of a war film title
- 71 Gumbo ingredients
- 72 Reach across

- 73 Cooking term
- DOWN
- 1 Botherome person
- 2 Bert, the lion
- 3 Vast land mass
- 4 Secretarial role
- 5 Lets go
- 6 Got an eagle on a par-3

- 7 Kind of board
- 8 "M*A*S*H" locale
- 9 In a state of anomie
- 10 Swellhead's problem
- 11 Wrestling hold
- 12 "There's ____ in My Beer" (Hank Williams song)
- 13 1966 hit "Walk Away

- 21 Tide type
- 22 Jimmy and Rosalynn's daughter
- 26 Next in line
- 27 Mrs. Peel on "The Avengers"
- 28 Like Fonzie
- 29 Meeting place for the unattached
- 30 Talks nonstop
- 34 Soak flax
- 35 Uh-huh
- 37 Traditional knowledge
- 38 Birthday suit?
- 40 Animal's appendage
- 42 Gave a long, boring speech
- 45 Southpaws
- 47 Lift up a mountain
- 50 Unspecified ordinal
- 52 Planetary paths
- 53 Sculpted trunk
- 54 Hit hard
- 55 Causes distress
- 56 Private detective
- 60 Star Trek android
- 61 Woodwind instrument
- 62 Old currency in Milan
- 63 Romanov ruler
- 65 Bikini top

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Horoscope | Stella Wilder

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You won't be rushed. Make it clear to those around you that you will take your own sweet time and still get to everything on schedule.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — It's time to ask for what you want, regardless of what others feel you deserve. Honest discussion and some compromise can turn out well for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — The competition may seem mismatched, but you shouldn't be surprised if your opponent gives you a run for your money.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Though looks aren't everything, you'll want to make sure that you've done all you can to ensure that things are aesthetically

pleasing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You may hear no more often than not — but this should only serve to inspire you and fill you with greater resolve than ever. Keep going.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You may want to be in charge, but you may have to play second-fiddle to someone who is better prepared than you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Keep your tongue in check, and mind your manners — particularly with people you do not know well. A good first impression is essential.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Now is the time for you to raise the stakes, and to put more effort into those things that, in the past,

have become more and more routine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Romance is in the picture, and don't let a golden opportunity pass you by simply because you weren't paying attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — This is a good day to entertain others in your home — provided you've kept things in order. You're not yet ready for a full production.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You may be coming down to the wire, and as the pace quickens and the competition heats up you'll bring all your talents to bear.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You may have to hide your feelings again and again. Take care you don't lose sight of your true intentions, however.

LIVE ONLINE

Playboy's 50th

From washingtonpost.com/liveonline

CHRISTIE HEFNER, president and CEO of Playboy Enterprises, was online Tuesday to discuss Playboy's 50th anniversary and her career.

Playboy presents the most one-dimensional view of women that I can think of. Doesn't that ever bother you?

It would appear that you are not a reader of the magazine. This is a magazine that has published the wit and wisdom of some of the most interesting women around, from Ayn Rand and Dr. Mary Calderone, to Betty Friedan, Joyce Carol Oates and Germaine Greer.

I assume that your point of view is a reduction of the magazine to its photographs. But I would argue with you that even if that is all you focus on, the images are beautiful, tasteful and romantic. And since I think most people think that it's a good thing to have erotic imagery out there — whether for gay or straight, men or women — then I think Playboy fills a role.

What was it like growing up with your famous father?

Well, I didn't really get to grow up with my father. He was away, building the magazine and the company. My mother re-married when I was very young and I grew up in a pretty typical upper-middle-class home in the suburbs of Chicago. So, although I saw my father for birthdays and Christmas, my mother really raised me.

At what point does your father become a liability for Playboy's image? (It's getting quite close.)

I don't see it. When he goes out to restaurants or clubs it's the young guys in their 20s saying, "You da man!" And since his mother lived to be 101 and really only had health problems in the last year of her life, I figure he has decades to go. At the same time, we have a new, young editor who is ensuring that the magazine remains relevant and appealing to the next generation.

Today on Live Online

NOON: Post military reporter Vernon Loeb will discuss national security and military defense.

express

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